

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (original). A method for distributing a print task among multiple printers, said method comprising the acts of:

sending a print task to a print processor;
sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
modifying said print task with said print processor.

2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said sending said print task modification commands comprises reading command data from a configuration file.

3 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of prompting a user for print task modification commands.

4 (currently amended). The method of claim 2 3 wherein said prompting is print-processor based.

5 (currently amended). The method of claim 2 3 wherein said prompting is driver-based.

6 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said modification comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks.

7 (currently amended). The method of claim 5 6 wherein said dividing comprises job splitting.

8 (currently amended). The method of claim 5 6 wherein said dividing comprises copy splitting.

9 (currently amended). The method of claim 5 6 wherein said dividing comprises a combination of copy splitting and job splitting.

10 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said modifying comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks and further comprising the act of distributing said multiple modified print tasks to a plurality of printing devices.

11 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is a printer-ready file.

12 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is journalled printer data.

13 (original). A print processor capable of modifying a print task according to print task modification commands, said print processor comprising:

- an input for receiving a print task;
- an interface for receiving a print task modification command; and
- an output for sending at least one modified print task.

14 (currently amended). The print processor of claim ~~11~~ 13 wherein said interface receives print task modification commands independently of said input for receiving a print task.

15 (currently amended). The print processor of claim ~~11~~ 13 wherein said interface is a dialog box.

16 (currently amended). The print processor of claim ~~11~~ 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for job splitting parameters.

17 (currently amended). The print processor of claim ~~11~~ 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting parameters.

18 (currently amended). The print processor of claim ~~11~~ 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting and job splitting parameters.

19 (currently amended). The print processor of claim ~~11~~ 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for multiple printer selection.

20 (original). A computer readable medium comprising instructions for modifying a print task with a print processor, said instructions comprising the acts of:

- sending a print task to a print processor;
- sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
- modifying said print task with said print processor.

21 (original). A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of modifying a print task with a print processor, said signal comprising instructions for:

- sending a print task to a print processor;
- sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
- modifying said print task with said print processor.

22 (original). A method for modifying a print task with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

- sending a print task to a driver;
- prompting a user for print task modification commands;
- creating a spool file for said print task;
- sending said spool file to a spooler;
- spooling said spool file to a modifying print processor;
- modifying said print task according to said print task modification commands thereby
- creating at least one modified print task;
- sending said at least one modified print task to at least one printing device.

23 (original). A method for distributing a print task to multiple printing devices with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

- generating a print task from an application, said print task being configured for printing on a single printing device;
- invoking a print driver for combining device initialization and environment data for said single printing device and print task data from said application and creating a spool file;
- obtaining cluster printing data;
- sending said spool file to a spooler;
- spooling said spool file to a cluster-enabled print processor (CPP);
- modifying said spool file data with said CPP to cause said print task to be distributed to multiple printing devices thereby creating at least one modified print task; and
- sending said at least one modified print task to said multiple printing devices.